

STATE of ALASKA
DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, beginning on August 13 and continuing through August 20, 2012, a severe low pressure system over the Kotzebue Sound produced record rainfall, strong winds and waves, and associated high runoff on the Wulik and Kivalina Rivers that together raised water levels in the Kivalina Lagoon and adversely impacted the local water supply and distribution system for the City of Kivalina, and overtopped the community's landfill, spreading contaminated debris in public areas; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kivalina is a political subdivision within the Northwest Arctic Borough, with each entity declaring local disaster emergencies, and the Borough requesting State assistance; and

WHEREAS, the following conditions exist as a result of this disaster: loss of the community water production that has prohibited or substantially delayed the filling of community water tanks, causing an immediate threat to life and safety within the community of Kivalina, as well as disrupting normal city, tribal, and school functions; and

WHEREAS, the severity and magnitude of the emergency are beyond the timely and effective response and recovery capability of local resources, and repairs and emergency assistance are required; and

WHEREAS, the expedited timeframe for funding the repairs to the community water production and storage facilities is crucial for life safety in order to restore these necessities before the onset of winter; and

WHEREAS, there are insufficient regularly-appropriated funds in the City of Kivalina and Northwest Arctic Borough to cover these requirements.

NOW THEREFORE, on this 7th day of September 2012, under authority granted by the Alaska Statutes, Section 26.23.020 (c), I hereby declare that a condition of disaster emergency exists in the City of Kivalina and Northwest Arctic Borough, and that this condition is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a disaster declaration in order to provide assistance.

FURTHER, the Commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) is hereby authorized to utilize funds made available for life safety purposes considered necessary and disaster assistance to ensure a safe, secure, and reliable quantity of drinking and potable water for the community in advance of winter, including disaster public assistance and necessary administrative and disaster management expenses. State funds are proposed to be spent under AS 26.23.020(i) and AS 26.23.050. The Commissioner of DMVA or his designee is the designated State Coordinator and is further authorized to task, as necessary, the State departments and agencies in accordance with the State Emergency Operations Plan; and is further authorized to exercise, as necessary, the provisions under Alaska Statutes, Section 26.23.020 (g), (1), (2), and (10).

By: _____

Sean Parnell
Governor